Police on the subject and he says that he did not authorise the closing of traffic on the occasion. Such a closure of traffic required the previous sanction of Government and publication of a notification in the Government Gazette. I am asking the Commissioner of Police to investigate the matter. In regard to the Northern Outlet road, as I told you, it must be subordinate to the other road requirements of the State. The question of this road will be placed before the road board which, I trust, will very shortly be constituted.

46. Maintenance by Government of the so-called Planters' Roads which had really become public roads.

MR. A. R. ST. GEORGE (*Member, Central Travancore Planters' Association*) said that it was his intention on behalf of the Central Travancore Planters' Association to press the Government to take over the two grant-in-aid roads, *viz* the Cardamom Hills Road or the Church Hill Road and Glenmary Roads known as No, 137, Church Hill Road and No. 138 Road from 3rd mile Church Hill Road to Pambanar *via* Glenmary. Since notifying Government, however, of the subject, he was informed that Government had accorded administrative approval for widening and improving the 11 1/8 miles of roads in question. He would therefore only request that the improvement and maintenance of the roads should be undertaken by Government from the beginning of the year 1105 M. E.

DEWAN'S REPLY: Mr. St. George, as you were correctly informed, administrative sanction has been accorded to widen and improve 11 1/8 miles of No. 137 Church Hill Road and No. 138 road from the 3rd mile Church Hill road to Pambanar. As to the date on which the work should be taken up you will have an opportunity of making out your case before the road board which will shortly be constituted.

47. Irrigation in the Kalkulam and Vilavancode taluks.

MR. A. PAKIANATHAN (*Member, Municipal Council, Kuzhithura*) said that the Kalkulam and Vilavancode taluks were usually subject to severe draughts. Cultivation in these taluks was carried on by means of artificial irrigation. The chief means of irrigation were the tanks. But many of them had silted up and had ceased to be of much use. Such tanks should be deepened and repaired constantly. There was a scheme formulated by Government for the restoration of tanks in disrepair. This scheme was not, however, working well. First, the deepening was done in a very perfunctory manner. It meant only spading out some earth and depositing it in heaps on the sides of the tanks. A single rain was enough to wash down the whole thing into the tanks and to fill them up again. The condition of Nallurkulam, Nelvelikulam and Thamarakulam which were restored only recently would illustrate this. Again, instead of deepening the bed of the tanks what was usually done was to raise their banks, with the result that no water was found in them in the dry season. In order to attend to the

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